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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

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## NONPROLIFERATION TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AT IMPASSE

The control provisions of the draft nonproliferation treaty (NPT) are still the subject of controversy, and the treaty will therefore not be discussed at this session of the UN General Assembly.

The fundamental problem is that the five EURATOM countries consider that the treaty as
drafted "discriminates" against presently nonnuclear countries; they have indicated, however, that they can tolerate this if adjustments are made on certain points. They want assurance that the treaty will not set aside the EURATOM safeguards system, and have objected to the language of the Soviet draft which specifically calls for application of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA).

They much prefer the US draft which calls for safeguards as set forth by an agreement to be negotiated between EURATOM and IAEA. Furthermore, they want assurance that during what may be a prolonged period when a safeguards agreement is being negotiated between IAEA and EURATOM there will be no interruption in the US supply of nuclear materials to EURATOM. According to the US draft article, nonnuclear countries shall not receive nuclear material not subject to control. The Belgians have suggested that the US and EURATOM conduct informal talks to determine the feasibility of an IAEA-EURATOM agreement.

The Europeans are also unwilling to immobilize their nuclear development in perpetuity and want the duration of the treaty limited to 10 to 25 years. They want to change the amendment provisions so that these will not be binding for those countries not voting for them. Finally, they want the treaty to provide specifically for periodic conferences to review the situation and possibly negotiate changes that then seem necessary or desirable.

All of these European concerns are the subject of discussion between the US and the Soviet Union. Moscow is reluctant to work out compromises until the safeguards article has been completed. Although this article may be worked out by the end of next month, there are still a host of other problems to be dealt with in Geneva, such as peaceful uses of nuclear energy, security assurances, and disarmament obligations for nuclear powers.

After the Geneva talks are completed, the treaty will go to the UN General Assembly or to the UN Disarmament Commission, where, although it would be time consuming, the treaty would undergo a comprehensive review and then be reported to the General Assembly in the fall. There is increasing pressure in New York to hold a resumed session of the General Assembly in the spring. However, if the NPT is placed on the agenda of such a session, it would have to compete for attention with Middle Eastern problems.

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